

## 6. THE CLAIMS

It is claimed:

1. A method of generating a function, the function for assessing a parameter, the method comprising:

- 5        a) displaying a field for receiving a rule on a computer;
- b) entering a rule into the computer;
- c) transmitting the rule to a server;
- d) storing the rule on the server; and
- e) generating a function for assessing the parameter.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of entering the rule includes entering the rule into a browser running on the computer.

15        3. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of entering the rule includes entering a Java equation.

20        4. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of entering the rule includes entering a PL/SQL equation.

20        5. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of entering the rule includes entering a Basic equation.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of entering the rule includes entering a Virtual Basic equation.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of transmitting the rule to the server includes  
5 transmitting the criterion rule over the Internet.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of generating the function includes generating  
a Java function.
- 10 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of generating the function includes generating  
a PL/SQL function.
- 15 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of generating the function includes generating  
a Basic function.
11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
f) verifying that the function is valid;
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the act of verifying that the function is valid  
20 includes running the function through a syntax checker.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the act of verifying that the function is valid  
includes compiling the function and determining if the function compiled without

generating an error.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the act of verifying that the function is valid includes compiling the function, determining if compiling the function generated an  
5 error, and if compiling the function generated an error, then displaying a screen on the computer that allows editing of the criterion rule.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- f) entering a parameter into the computer;
- 10 g) transmitting the parameter to the server;
- h) generating an assessment of the parameter;
- i) transmitting the assessment from the server to the computer; and
- j) displaying the assessment on the computer.

15 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the act of entering the parameter includes entering  
the parameter into a browser.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the act of transmitting the parameter to the server  
includes transmitting the criterion over the Internet.

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18. The method of claim 15, wherein the act of generating the assessment includes  
executing the function.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the act of transmitting the assessment from the server to the computer includes transmitting the assessment over the Internet.

20. A program storage device containing instructions that when executed by a computer  
5 perform the following acts:

- a) display a field for receiving a rule;
- b) transmit a rule to a server;
- c) display a field for receiving a parameter; and
- d) display an assessment.

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21. A program storage device containing instructions that when executed by a server  
perform the following acts:

- a) receive a rule from the computer; and
- b) generate a function for assessing a parameter.

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22. A method of displaying an assessment on a computer, the method comprising:

- a) displaying a field for receiving a parameter name on a computer;
- b) entering a parameter name into the computer;
- c) displaying a field for receiving a parameter type on the computer;
- 20 d) entering a parameter type into the computer;
- e) displaying a field for receiving a rule on a computer;
- f) entering a rule into the computer;
- g) transmitting the parameter name, the parameter type and the rule to a server;

- h) storing the parameter name, the parameter type and the rule on the server;
  - i) generating a function for assessing a parameter;
  - j) verifying that the function is valid;
  - k) if the function is not valid, then displaying a screen on the computer that allows
- 5 editing of the rule;
- l) displaying a field for receiving a parameter;
  - m) entering a parameter into the computer;
  - n) transmitting the parameter to the server;
  - o) generating an assessment of the parameter;
- 10 k) transmitting the assessment from the server to the computer; and
- p) displaying the assessment on the computer.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the act of entering the criterion type includes  
entering information that indicates that the criterion is a number.

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24. The method of claim 22, wherein the act of entering the criterion type includes  
entering information that indicates that the criterion is a string.